Book 2

Hajj & Wilayah Season

Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Dhul Ḥijjah

1st	Marriage of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) and Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa)
7th	Shahādah of Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa)
8th	Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) leaves from Mecca to Karbala in 60 AH
9th	Shahādah of Muslim bin ʿAqīl & Night of ʿArafah
10th	Eid ul-Aḍḥā
15th	Wilādah of Imām ʿAlī al-Hādī an-Naqī (ʿa)
18th	Eid al-Ghadīr
23rd	Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) gave his ring as charity, in rukūʿ
24th	Eid al-Mubāhalah & the Event of Ḥadīth al-Kisāʾ
25th	Sūrah al-Insān (Sūrah ad-Dahr) was revealed

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who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-islam.org
Ramadan Sadaqah Jar Craft Activity

cover: freepik.com

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Salāmun ʿalaykum! May Allah bless you and your families.

Alḥamdulillāh, we will soon begin the month of Dhul Ḥijjah, the last month of the Islamic year. This month is the month of Ḥajj. Millions of Muslims across the world gather in Mecca to perform the various acts of Ḥajj. When we think about Ḥajj, we immediately think about the Holy Kaʿbah, and how it is a symbol of unity for all Muslims. Regardless of race, status, or ethnicity, everyone who comes for Ḥajj wears the same garment and goes through an intensive course of self building and servitude to Allah.

So why do we travel so far and go to the Holy Kaʿbah? The act of traveling from our homes to Mecca, to the Holy Kaʿbah, shows our connection to Allah, and our desire to maintain or strengthen that connection. Similarly, we show our connection to the Imām and the Ahl al-Bayt when we go to them for help and guidance. Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) said that she heard her father describe how the Imām is for the people, saying, "The Imām is like the example of the Kaʿbah; people must go toward him, not that people should wait and expect him to come toward them."[1] From this, we can clearly see that it is important for us to go toward our Imām for guidance and help, rather than wait for him to come to us. This shows not only our love for the Imām, but also our desire to gain nearness to him, and ultimately to Allah.

Another very special event that takes place in this month is the event of Ghadīr. The event of Ghadīr is considered the greatest eid that we celebrate each year. It was at this time when Allah asked the Prophet (ṣ) to announce the wilāyah of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) and the rest of the Imāms. This announcement of wilāyah completed the message of the Prophet (ṣ) and Islam that he had been preaching for so many years. Wilāyah is not just about one person, it is the mission of all the prophets, and is the continuation of the path of *ḥaqq* and *bāṭil*.

While this month is filled with joy and celebration, it is also a month where we are reminded of the story of Karbala. During this month, we commemorate the shahādah of Ḥaḍrat Muslim ibn ʿAqīl, the cousin and repsresentative of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), who sacrificed his life standing with the Imām, even though he was alone. We will be ending Dhul Ḥijjah with preparation for the new year, and these preparations for Muḥarram is another way to develop and show our love of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

We pray that through the lessons of this booklet, which focus on wilāyah, we are able to increase our maʿrifah, and strengthen our wilāyah of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), inshāʾAllāh.

Jazākallāh Khayr and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿAlīm of SABA Islamic Center

1 Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 36, P. 353

Ṭawāf of Kaʿbah

Objective: Students will learn about ṭawāf and other acts of Ḥajj.

As we all know, Dhul Ḥijjah is the month in which Muslims travel to Mecca from all over the world to perform Ḥajj. We should all have a deep yearning in our hearts and pray to Allah to give us the opportunity to perform this act of worship and remember the sacrifice that Prophet Ibrāhīm was willing to make, and his complete trust in Allah.

Allah says in the Qurʾān, *"...Purify My House for those who perform ṭawāf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer]."*[1]

The act of circumambulating the Kaʿbah seven times is called ṭawāf. It is one of the essential acts of Ḥajj and ʿUmrah. The word 'ṭawāf' means to turn, or walk around something. Everything in the universe, from the tiny atoms to the planets in the galaxies, are in a state of ṭawāf. In the atom, electrons turn around the nucleus, with a dizzying speed in a fixed orbit. They rotate as they worship the Creator that created them. When the cameras capture aerial images from the Kaʿbah of millions of Muslims doing ṭawāf, in unison, to our Creator, Allah, it is truly a beautiful sight to behold and makes us ponder over the beauty of the law and order Allah has created in the universe.

Some of the acts of Ḥajj are only performed for those who are fortunate to make it to the Kaʿbah to perform Ḥajj. Other acts like rukūʿ, sujūd, and general worship are performed all over the world. We should pray to Allah for an invitation to perform this amazing act of worship soon, inshāʾAllāh. Today, we are going to make a card to remember the act of Ḥajj.

1 Noble Qurʾān, 2:125

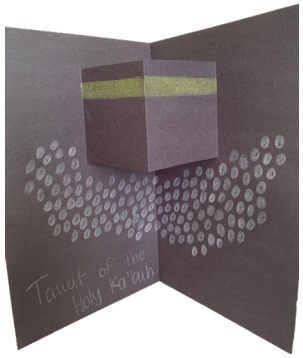
Kaʿbah Card

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

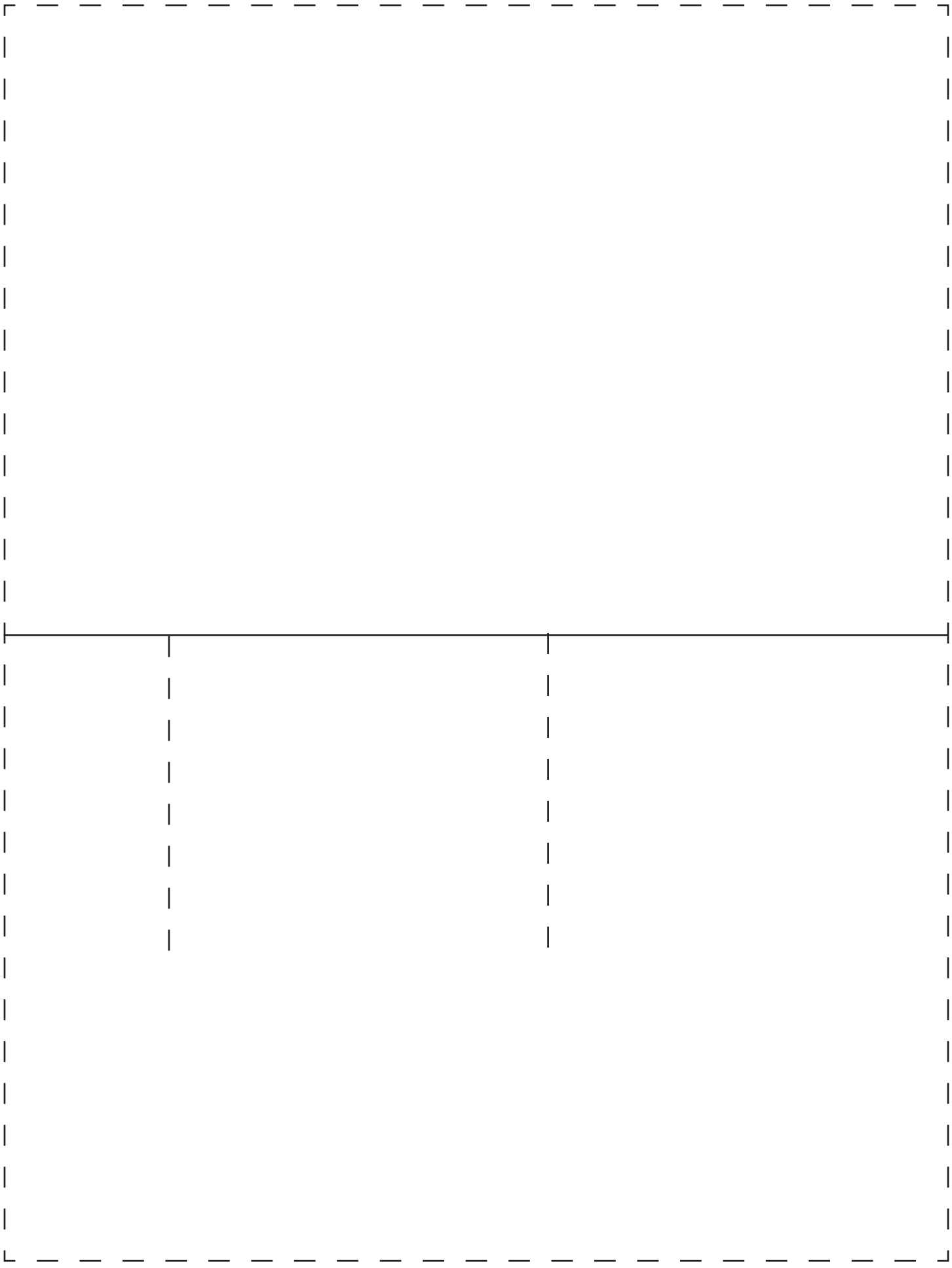
Materials:

- Black card sheet (or construction paper)
- Scissors
- Cotton bud
- White paint or crayon
- Yellow or gold paint or crayon



Procedure:

1. Fold the black paper in half (optional: you can use the template and color it black).
2. Make two small horizontal slits about 3 inches apart, from the folded edge.
3. Open the fold.
4. Now fold the 3 inch section inwards to create a half cube.
5. Paint or color a gold, horizontal line towards the top of the cube.
6. Using a cotton bud dipped in white paint, make dots in a semi circular pattern representing Hajjis doing ṭawāf around the Kaʿbah (optional: use a white crayon to draw small dots instead).



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Mina

Objective: Students will learn about Mina and the acts of Ḥajj which take place there.

When we talk about the acts of Ḥajj, we usually hear the story of Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) and his son, Prophet Ismāʿīl (ʿa). Once, Prophet Ibrāhīm saw a dream in which he was sacrificing his son. He saw the same dream many times, and realized it was a command from Allah. When he informed his son about his dream, Prophet Ismāʿīl said they should follow the command of Allah and agreed to the act. Together, father and son set off for the sacrifice. They traveled to the plains of ʿArafah, a short distance from Mecca. There they spent the night in prayers. The following afternoon they traveled to the town of Mina where the sacrifice was to take place.

On the way to the appointed place, Shayṭān tried to trick them into abandoning the mission three times, but each time the father and son chased him away by throwing pebbles at him. It is for this reason that to this day, Muslims who travel to Mecca for Ḥajj stay in tents in Mina and throw stones at three pillars.

If you have ever been for Ḥajj or seen pictures of Mina, there are rows and rows of white tents and pilgrims spend their time worshipping Allah in them. Let's make a craft to show what the place of Mina looks like.

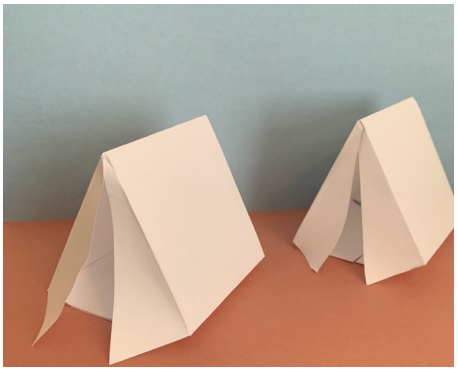
Tents in Mina

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

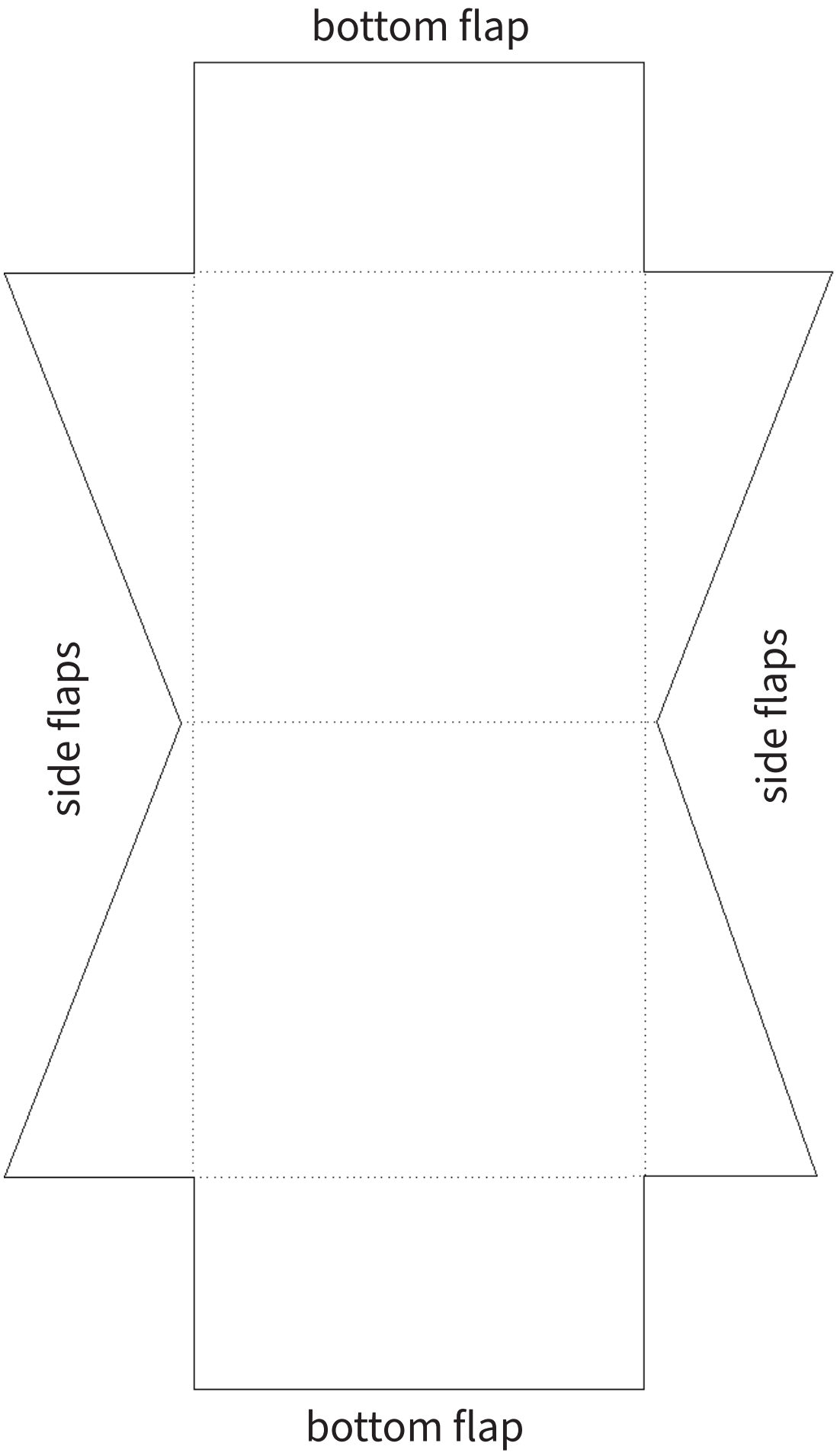
Materials:

- Tent template
- A large board (or construction paper)
- Scissors
- Glue



Procedure:

1. Make several printouts of the template.
2. Cut out the tent template by cutting all along the outer edges.
3. Fold along the thin dotted lines.
4. Glue the bottom flaps to the large board. Make sure they are not overlapping.
5. Gently unfold the side flaps from inside the tent to make it look like a tent's opening flaps.
6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 until you have multiple tents.
7. Get creative! You can add more to the scene by adding a background, and using other materials.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The Exemplary Family

Objective: Students will learn about the inspiring act of charity by the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Once, when Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) and Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) were very young, they both fell sick. Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa), and the Noble Prophet (ṣ) all prayed for their quick recovery. The Prophet (ṣ) suggested to the parents to keep a *nadhr,* or vow, for the restoration of the health of the children, so Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) and Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) made a *nadhr* that they would fast for three days upon the recovery of the children.

Allah accepted their prayers and both the children recovered from their illness, and the whole family fasted in fulfilment of the *nadhr*. On the day of their first fast, when they sat to break their fast, a poor man knocked on their door and asked for food. All of them, one by one, passed their bread to the beggar. There was no other food in the house, so all of them had water. They went to bed hungry, and fasted again the next day.

On the second day, as they were about to break the fast, an orphan knocked at their door and asked for food saying he was very hungry. Although they were themselves hungry for two days, they were happy to feed the boy for the pleasure of Allah. Everyone gave their bread to the orphan and again slept without any food.

On the third day, as they sat down to break their fast, a prisoner knocked at their door asking for something to eat. They again gave away all the bread to the prisoner and contented themselves only with water for the third day.

It was in appreciation of these sacrifices, that Almighty Allah revealed the whole Sūrah ad-Dahr. This is how the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) kept and fulfilled their *nadhr*. Their act of charity also set an example of sacrifice by feeding the poor and caring for those who were in need.

Ṣadaqah Jar

Suggested Ages: 5+

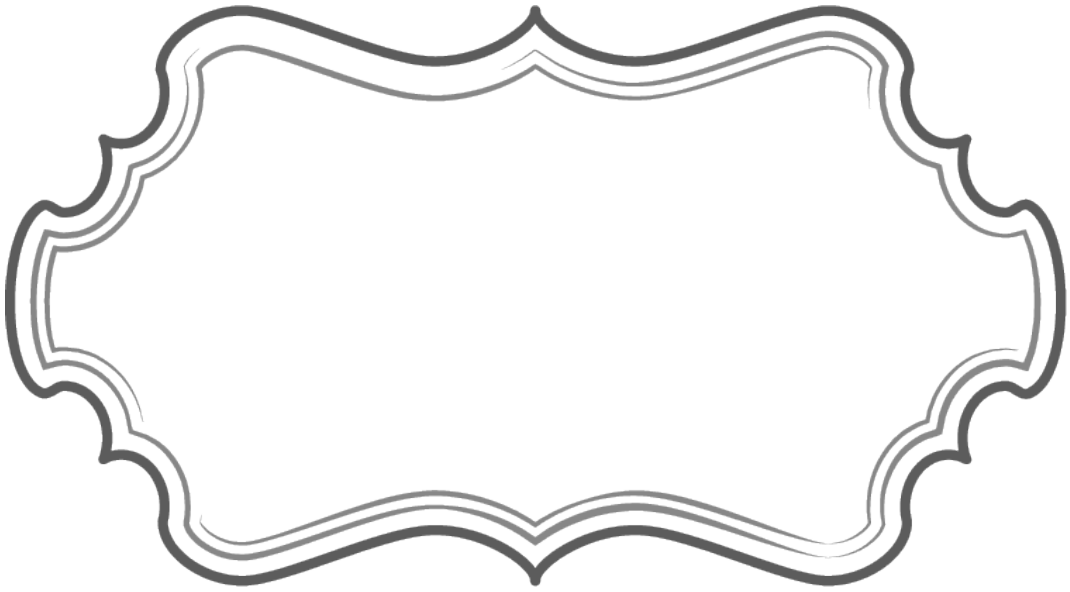
Time: 30 minutes

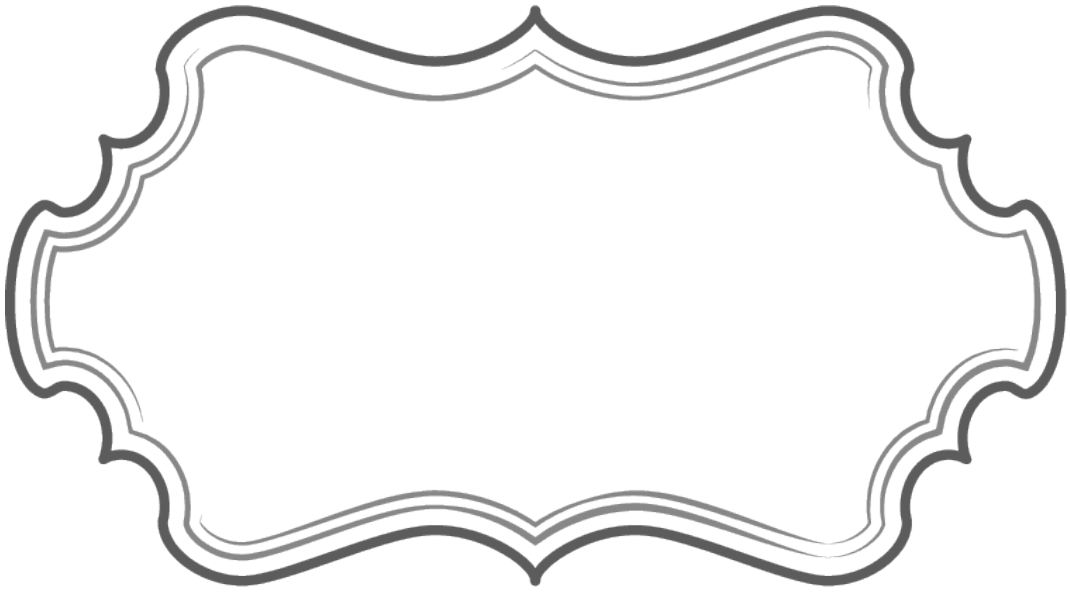
Materials:

- Ṣadaqah jar label
- Plastic or glass jar with a lid
- Tissue paper in lots of different colors
- Liquid glue
- Paint brush

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the jar label however you like. Cut it out and keep it aside for now.
2. Cut the colorful tissue paper in small pieces.
3. Paint the inside of the jar with liquid glue using a paintbrush.
4. Glue the tissue paper pieces to cover the whole insides of the jar.
5. Glue the label on the outside.
6. Allow the inside of the jar to dry before using it to collect ṣadaqah.





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The Meaning of Shīʿah

Objective: Children will be introduced to the meaning of shīʿah, and how it relates to wilāyah.

What does the word shīʿah mean? The literal translation is "followers or members of a party." By itself, the term shīʿah doesn't have a negative or positive meaning. However, if a person is a Shīʿah (follower) of a righteous person divinely appointed by Allah, then they have to be extra careful of their actions. As the Shīʿah of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), we have a great responsibility in doing good deeds, and we are inspired by the beautiful akhlāq of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

The word wilāyah comes from the word walī, which means guardian. In the Qurʾān, Allah says, *"Verily your guardian is Allah and His Messenger and those who accept faith and establish prayer and give zakāt while they are bowing down."*[1] In the last part of the āyah, Allah is describing Imām ʿAlī (ʿa). He was a role model in all aspects of life and his letters, sayings, and sermons are a treasure trove of knowledge for us. He had such excellent akhlāq that people were attracted to his good morals and wanted to be just like him.

Think about when you put a magnet next to paper clips. The paper clips stick to the magnet and each paperclip takes on the magnetic characteristics of the magnet and itself begins to behave like a magnet, thus attracting more metallic paper clips to the main magnet. Imagine that Allah, His Messenger the Noble Prophet (ṣ), and Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) are magnets, and humans are paper clips. Anyone that gets close to Allah, the Prophet (ṣ), and Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), will be attracted to them and stick with them, and try to be just like them! They are our walīs and anyone who sticks with them has wilāyah. When we have wilāyah of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), it means that we know, love, and want to follow Imām ʿAlī (ʿa).

1 Noble Qurʾān, 5:55

Paper Clips & Magnet Activity

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- A magnet
- A box or tray
- Paper clips

Procedure:

1. Fill the tray or box with paper clips.
2. Hold the magnet close to a single paper clip. It will be attracted to the magnet and stick to it. Then hold this paperclip close to another paperclip. Keep going until you have a paper clip chain. The chain will grow longer and longer and the paperclips will in turn acquire the magnetic properties and continue to attract more paper clips.

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